

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

A floor planner tool for integrated circuit design which provides tools and displays for a designer to create a floor plan to define desired placement of circuits defined in a logical netlist by creating a physical hierarchy comprised of nested physical blocks (pblocks). Each pblock is a data structure which contains data which defines which circuits from the logical netlist are assigned to it. Each pblock stands alone and can be input to a place and route tool without the rest of the physical hierarchy. Each pblock data structure contains pointers to the circuits on the netlist assigned to that pblock ~~pblock~~, identifies other pblocks nested within it and contains a list of pins for the instances within the pblock. Net data structures in the physical hierarchy define which nets are connected to which pins.